



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

The Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Levin:

Thank you for your August 1, 2013 letter regarding the Allied Paper Landfill portion of the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is evaluating a variety of cleanup alternatives for the site, ~~under the authority of the Superfund law~~. EPA will continue to work with you, the City of Kalamazoo, and other stakeholders to ~~receive input on various cleanup options before issuing a~~ *develop* a proposed plan for public comment. *to be released*

Threats to the health of the community
Estimated costs for all potential cleanup alternatives that leave waste in place factor in long-term operation and maintenance. Costs related to loss of business activities or potential tax revenues (referenced in your letter) are not factored into the cost evaluation of potential remedies. Additionally, if the cost of the remedy for Allied Landfill exceeds the available bankruptcy funds, EPA's remedial action prioritization panel would need to review and rank the site for funding consideration before any work could begin. As you know, the Superfund remedial budget has undergone substantial reductions in the past few years, and future years point to continued constrained budgets.

of the site are the extent to which
EPA and the City of Kalamazoo have discussed redevelopment, ~~including how various cleanup alternatives might be implemented to achieve all or some of the City's goals~~. If the City takes ownership of all or a portion of the site, EPA would explore appropriate environmental liability protections, ~~including a potential comfort letter~~. *That you suggested*

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Denise Gawlinski or Kate Balasa, the Region 5 Congressional Liaisons, at (312) 886-3000.

Sincerely,

Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator